

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-10 are amended and new claim 12 is added by the present amendment.

Item 4 of the outstanding Office Action objected to the drawings. Replacement sheets are submitted labeling FIGS. 1-3B "Related Art," in light of the comments noted in item 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Item 5 of the outstanding Office Action objected to the abstract and specification. In light of the comments noted in item 5, a replacement abstract is submitted which is believed to comply with the requirements of MPEP § 608.01(b). Further, it is respectfully requested the ancillary document submitted at the end of the specification be deleted from the application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted this objection also be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. patent number 6,125,353 to Yagasaki. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Yagasaki does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a search support device in which "predetermined search information is registered for each category" of an address designated for registration. The "predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network," which is supported in the specification at least at page 7, lines 25-36. Independent claims 3, 4 and 8-10 include similar features.

In a non-limiting example, the specification at page 7, lines 25-36 teaches that a category menu is "prepared in a client computer containing search information related to each category. Accordingly, a user selects a category containing desired information from the category menu prepared in the client computer, thereby automatically producing search information to be inputted into the search engine."

As an advantage, when a user performs a search operation on the Web, the user's operation load is effectively eased.

In contrast, Yagasaki merely discusses a method of displaying Web data, which method is not used directly by a user but by a person providing information to the user. Moreover, Yagasaki at column 3, lines 17-21 only discusses accepting "a search command with a category

designation from a terminal" and conducting "a search for the products that fall under the designated category." Thus Yagasaki is different from the pending amended independent claims, in which predetermined search information is automatically produced in relation to each category.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 3, 4 and 8-10 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Yagasaki.

Claims 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yagasaki. This rejection is respectfully traversed at least for similar reasons as discussed regarding the independent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted claims 2 and 7, which depend on amended independent claims 1 and 4, respectively, also patentably distinguish over Yagasaki.

In addition, new claim 12 is added to set forth the invention in a varying scope. New claim 12 is similar to independent claim 8, and is directed to a method including "registering predetermined search information used as a keyword for searching for the address of the desired information on the network for each of a plurality of categories into which information is classified." New claim 12 is believed to be allowable at least for similar reasons as claim 8.

In light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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